

On The Life And Influence Of J. W. Meigen

By J. A. Förster, Stettin. Entomol. Ztg. 1846. 66-74; 130-140.

Johann Wilhelm Meigen was born on 3 May 1764 in Solingen, Germany, and died in Stolberg (old spelling, Stollberg), near Aachen (=Aix-la-Chapelle), on 11 July 1845 at the age of 83. He was the 5th of 8 children of Johann Clemens Meigen and Sibylla Margaretha Bick. Meigen's parents had a retail store in Solingen. His grandparents had a considerable estate with a hamlet of 20 houses a good quarter-hour away from Solingen. These paternal grandparents practiced agriculture, but his grandfather was also a cutler and therefore belonged to one of the 3 privileged guilds of the famous Solingen cutlery firm. Meigen's father had learned to read, write, and reckon, but he had no handicraft. Only a few years after he settled in Solingen the Seven Years' War broke out, cracking its whip also over the Duchy of Berg, to which Solingen belonged. The resulting billeting of troops, requisitioning of supplies, famine, and other unfortunate circumstances produced a gradual deterioration of his father's financial situation. Two years after Meigen was born his grandparents died and his parents moved to the already heavily indebted estate of his grandparents. Bad crops and rash speculations brought them to the straits in 1772 where they had to dispose of the estate at a great loss. They then went back to Solingen and again took up their old business. Meigen had already learned to read and write while he was at his grandfather's estate, and now that he was back in Solingen he attended the city school where the instruction, after the customs of the times, was very poor. At the still tender age of 8 or 10 years his attention was drawn to nature, and it was in this case, as it generally is, that the boy was captivated by the beautiful colors of butterflies. But this pleasure was soon spoiled for him. Once when a Willow Carmine (*Catocala nupta*) flew into the house, he succeeded in capturing it. He showed it to his mother, the dust of its scales on his fingers. She cried out in horror, "That's poison!" and he had to wash several times with soap to remove all traces of it. From then on he dared have nothing to do with such poisonous creatures.

About this time he made another discovery in the garden, where he saw a fly (*Anthomyia quadrum*) that seemed to him distinctly different from the housefly with which he was familiar. He turned his eyes also to plants.

Editor's Note: From ongoing efforts being made to trace the historical course of events in mosquito systematics, I became aware that no account existed in English of the life of J. W. Meigen. Accordingly, the liberty was taken of asking George Steyskal, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA/ARS, U. S. National Museum, if he would translate from the German Förster's lengthy account of Meigen's life. This, he kindly consented to do. Also contributed by him was a partial translation from the French of Macquart's account of Meigen. The results were so interesting that I further requested permission to publish them here and this has been granted. As author of the generic names, *Anopheles* and *Aedes*, Meigen has a special place in the history of mosquito systematics.

One of the first that he noticed was the Forest Prize (*Veronica chamaedrys*). Even in old age he never saw this little flower without pleasant emotion.

He remained in school for only a short time because the good relationships of his parents with the teacher soon worsened and the lad was left at home to his own devices. Books were few among plain townfolk in those days, but all that were available he hunted out and read regardless of their content. Among the few books the parental household afforded was a copy of Johann Hübner's Geographical Questions. This book was studied from end to end and a systematical abstract made of it. He was also able to secure maps without any trouble, since at this time there was living in his parent's home a state surveyor named Stamm, a good mathematician, self-taught, but quite capable. He had a number of Homann maps and gladly made them available. He also gave Meigen instruction in mathematics. Four parts of the earth were assiduously studied by Meigen; as he later naively recounted, the 5th had not yet been discovered by him. Another familiar of his parents was the Reformed Church organist and teacher Berger, who gave him lessons from his 10th year on in piano, orthography, and calligraphy. Later on, in 1776, he also taught him French. After a while he became Berger's assistant, spending the whole day with him and only coming home to sleep. After 2 years, Berger went to Mülheim as his mentor's assistant. There he saw for the first time a somewhat systematic collection of butterflies, and here he also learnt how to collect and prepare the insects. For a long time butterflies were his favorites.

In the fall of 1779 he returned to Solingen to help his parents, at first by giving private lessons in French, but in the following year he started a French school that lasted until early in 1784. During his few free hours in this period he studied history from Rollin's 15 volume Roman History and that author's 4 volume Ancient History (both in French). The only entomological work in his possession at that time was Moder's (or Kleemann's) Caterpillar Calendar. In the mentioned year of 1784, he was recommended to a tradesman by the name of Pelzer in Aachen for the position of resident tutor. The job was accepted, although his parents objected, because his trusted friends and former teachers strongly advised it, pointing out rightly that the sprightly young man still lacked the knowledge of the world and men that his parental home did not provide. So Meigen came to Aachen and he was received into the Pelzer household so benevolently that he was looked on and treated as one of the family. Meigen has remarked that he spent his most satisfying days there.

Mr. Pelzer had a cousin in Aachen by the name of Mathias Baumhauer, a wool merchant's son, who lived only for entomology. Meigen soon made his acquaintance. It was chiefly through him, who had a butterfly collection that was very extensive for that time, including about 1200 species as well as numbers of insects of all other orders, that Meigen's inclination toward entomology became fixed, never to be lost, even through all sorts of circumstances. It is this same Baumhauer who is so often mentioned in Meigen's greatest work. His collection is unfortunately no longer in Aachen; after his death his widow sold it to the Leiden Museum, with a part, if I am not mistaken, going to Lüttich. Meigen told me frequently about the interesting manner of collecting and observation practiced by this man whom I never

knew personally, assuring me that perhaps no other entomologist existed who had made so many observations in nature on both adult and immature insects, not excepting even Réaumur and Degeer. Whole days, even weeks, were devoted up to late hours in the night to open-air research. Everything was written down, but in no order at all and on any kind of writing material in such quantity that no desire arose in him to sift the mass of manuscript and thereby make some order out of the chaos, partly because the Diptera had become his chief interest and partly because he still lacked the needed general knowledge of the whole subject of entomology. After Baumhauer's death the manuscript either came into the wrong hands or was lost.

The first fruit of Meigen's association with Baumhauer was a great desire to collect, but that made him feel very strongly the lack of books with which to determine his specimens. He did obtain the 2 volumes on insects that Ph. L. St. Müller in Erlangen had published under the direction of the Houttyn firm in Holland, and tried to determine his collection with them. In this attempt (he said it must have been about 1778), he made his first discoveries. He overcame his delusion that Linnaeus had described everything; he found that there was a kind of regularity in the wing venation of Diptera that showed the Linnaean genera to be too inclusive; he saw glimmerings of a new classification based upon the wing venation, unaware then that Harris in England and Jurine in Geneva had also made that discovery. This made the Diptera henceforth his favorites and he got together all of them that he could. He next secured Fabricius' works and his course was settled.

Then he found that the venation was not enough and began to make drawings of the wings and antennae viewed under a 20-power wooden-framed microscope purchased at the fair in Aachen. This, a lens of about 6-power, and his own very sharp eyesight were all he was to need.

The happy times in Aachen did not last very long, for in the fall of 1786 an organist who was a younger brother of his former teacher Berger died in Solingen. That position, with a French school connected with it, was offered to Meigen. The advantages of the position, as well as the chance to be again with his family, won out over his reluctance to leave Aachen and he went back to Solingen. At about this time he became closely acquainted with Weniger, who shared his interests in botany and entomology. He had other exceptional opportunities also for this botanical studies here.

His enthusiasm for entomology and botany became broader and he decided to extend his studies to the products of other lands. Weniger felt likewise and communicated their desires to a friend of his who had a connection with Herr Gerning in Frankfurt. The latter wrote to his son in Holland, who bought insect specimens for him. A Swiss, Count von Meuron, who was in the Dutch service and whose brother was governor of Trincomali on Ceylon heard of their wishes and obtained for them the offer of positions as surgeons on an Eastindiaman, with an additional stipend of 25 Carolines per year contributed by the Count to the project. But this plan was given up when Meigen's mother heard of it. She strongly opposed it, and Meigen, as a dutiful son, gave it up.

Meigen nevertheless continued to work on Diptera, which had now become his specialty because he had noted that the order had been treated as an entomological step-child. He taught himself enough Latin to read the works of Fabricius. His new genera were gradually brought into shape, taking characters for them from wherever he thought Nature had placed them, using all parts of the insects to build an eclectic system.

In 1792 he seriously started to take instruction in drawing, but that lasted only half a year, until he took a teaching position in Burtscheid near Aachen. However, he could not leave Solingen because the French still occupied it in December during the Battle of Jemappes. He could not make his trip to Burtscheid until the next year after the withdrawal of the French as the outcome of the Battle of Neerwinden. It was indeed a hectic year.

He collected assiduously in Burtscheid and Aachen until 1796, when he took a job teaching French in Stolberg, 2 hours from Aachen. Here he remained without further change of residence until his death. In Stolberg he taught French in the school, and outside of school hours he taught drawing, geography, history, piano, and even astronomy. He had become acquainted with a brass-worker named J. A. Peltzer, who was a friend of the mathematical sciences and owned a 60-power Tiedemann achromatic telescope. Frequent excursions were made in the neighborhood of Stolberg, but things remained rather humdrum for several years.

In 1801 he made the acquaintance of the famous French naturalist Count Lacépède, then Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor. He came to Stolberg with a large entourage to visit the then flourishing brass works there. Meigen sat opposite the Count at a luncheon given by the management of the works. They talked about natural history and Meigen showed Lacépède his drawings of Diptera. The following day Meigen visited the Count in Aachen at the Count's invitation. The Count on that occasion did Meigen the honor of asking him to be botanist on Capt. Baudin's voyage around the world. Under earlier circumstances Meigen would have accepted with alacrity, but for some reason which he never explained, he graciously declined.

When Meigen returned from a trip to his paternal home in 1802 he found a letter from Illiger awaiting him with an invitation to visit him and Count Hoffmannsegg in Aachen, where they were taking the baths. Meigen lost no time in grasping this opportunity, took his drawings along, and made arrangements with Illiger and Hoffmannsegg for future work. Illiger had captured a new and unknown Dipteron and showed a pen drawing of it to Meigen, asking him how it should be classified. Meigen described it as *Loxocera Hoffmannseggi*, but it was later placed in a genus of its own, *Platystyla*. After the course of baths both gentlemen visited Meigen in Stolberg. Illiger agreed to proofread Meigen's work, which was published in 1804 in quarto by Reichard in Braunschweig. The new division of the Diptera, which in comparison with that of Fabricius, the only one then current, could indeed be called natural. It found little favor with adherents of Fabricius, but that did not deflect Meigen from his course. In the same year Fabricius visited Paris and saw Meigen's work. On returning home, he wrote Meigen and told him when he would be in Aachen. Meigen met him there, and a few days later Fabricius came to Stolberg. Here he was shown all of Meigen's new genera

in order that he might use them in the projected new edition of the *Systema Antliatorum*. Fabricius criticized Meigen for his eclectic method, asserting that a classification should be based upon one part of the body, not on one part now and another part then. It turned out, however, that Fabricius himself did not consistently follow his own precepts.

The year 1801 was an eventful one for Meigen in other ways as well, because in that year he married the woman who was to be his faithful companion through good and bad times. She was the sister of Rev. Mänss, a preacher at Hückelhoven near Linnich.

From that time until 1808 the number of French students steadily declined, resulting of course in a considerable reduction in Meigen's income. In this crisis, a merchant in Stolberg, one Adolf Pelzer, obtained for him the secretaryship for the commercial committee, including keeping minutes of meetings and carrying on correspondence in both German and French. To these duties, that of courier between governmental and industrial offices was later added. These 2 functions he carried out with complete satisfaction until the committee was dissolved and replaced by a voluntarily subsidized "chambre consultative". Meigen's duties gradually eroded, until he was eventually happy that his services were no longer needed.

In 1812 a ruling by the French government provided him with incidental but well-paid work which his previous extensive experience enabled him to perform very well. One of his jobs, occupying him for 3/4 of a year, was that of finishing drawings of coal flora.

Meigen's work day began usually at about 4 in the morning and lasted until late in the evening. All free time was spent with the study of entomology; although devoted principally to the *Diptera*, he did not neglect the other orders. He also studied assiduously history and mathematics.

Besides doing a considerable amount of work on butterflies, *Hymenoptera*, and plants, he drew and colored all of the species in his great work on *Diptera*. All of this had to be done in time outside of his official duties. What indeed could this man have accomplished had he been able to devote his whole lifetime to Science?

From 1812 to 1814 Meigen drew some maps for the municipality of Stolberg. He also corresponded again with Count von Hoffmannsegg, until the latter sold his collection to the Berlin Museum.

The saddest period of Meigen's life was certainly the years of 1816 and 1817. Because of poor harvests, food prices rose enormously. There were 7 children in his family at this time and his income was extremely low. Instruction in the French language had almost stopped as a result of current events; only a little private tutoring remained. In this extremity he tried to obtain a job from the government in Aachen, but he received only the reply there were still many veterans of the war of liberation to be taken care of. He then tried in vain also for a job as draftsman with the state surveying office. He did, however, get a little work from that source from time to time at very low payment. Eventually, through the

fortunate intervention of the inspector of water supply, he got a well-paid contract for some map-drawing lasting a couple of years. Astronomy also brought him some map-work that paid well in the early 1820's.

Let us now go back a few years in the life of my friend for some data regarding the publication of his work on Diptera. In 1815, Meigen received a letter from State Attorney (Justizrat) Wiedemann asking if there was any prospect that the work begun in 1804 could be continued. He offered assistance with access to the Fabricius collection in the University of Kiel, where it went after Fabricius' death in 1808. Meigen indicated his willingness, the difficulty being the finding of a publisher and the pecuniary means that he could not scrape up. Wiedemann took the necessary steps; he wrote to the Kings of Prussia, Denmark, and Württemberg, the Emperor of Austria, and the then hereditary Prince Karl of Braunschweig for subsidy for the publication of the *Zweiflügler*. Reply was prompt. The deceased King of Prussia sent 40 Fredericks of gold and the King of Denmark and the Prince of Braunschweig each 20, Emperor Franz sent 150 Viennese gulden, and the King of Württemberg sent 150 Rheinisch gulden. In the summer of 1816 Wiedemann himself came to Stolberg and stayed 8 days. He had been working tirelessly on his favorite project. He had material sent to Meigen from the Vienna Museum, from the great Hoffmannsegg collection in Berlin, and from the Pallas heritage. Meigen worked constantly and in 1818 the first volume of the new and enlarged edition came out, followed by the others until the 7th volume appeared (1838). For this last volume Meigen had to make the lithographic plates himself to cut expense. He also prepared 19 stone plates for Wiedemann's *Aussereuropäische Zweiflügler*.

The first volumes were published by Meigen himself, but the costs were so high, in spite of a considerable list of subscriptions, that he was glad when the Schulz bookdealers in Hamm took over the job with a sizeable honorarium.

In 1818, Meigen's longtime friend and tireless collector Baumhauer died in Paris. His widow brought his collection to Aachen and got Meigen to determine it for little recompense. He took on this onerous and exacting task of determining at least 50,000 specimens from Germany, France, the Pyrenees, the Alps, and northern Italy and worked on it for a year and a half. The collection was then sold for 1100 Dutch guilders, part of it going to Leiden and part to Lüttich.

I can pass quickly over a trip to the Siebengebirge (mountains south of Bonn) because it was chiefly for botanical purposes, although as a result of it Meigen made some drawings of plants for Prof. Lehmann of Hamburg.

In 1821, Meigen made the acquaintance of Prof. Gaede of Lüttich, whose name he preserved for posterity in the name he gave *Trypeta gaedii* and the tachinid genus *Gaedia*.

Of especial importance to Meigen was Wiedemann's second visit in 1822. He proposed that Meigen come to Kiel and revise the Fabrician collection, even offering to defray expenses and to reimburse him for lost time. Meigen gladly accepted, leaving for Hamburg on 23 June 1823. He was met in Hamburg by Von Winthem, who invited him to stay at his home. This was a special

surprise for Meigen, because he found himself in the house in which the great poet and dramatist Klopstock spent the last 30 years of his life. The Winthem collection is especially famous among entomologists for the liberal way in which its owner made use of it. It contained so much that Meigen had to leave a more careful review of it for his return trip. He went on to Kiel and was most cordially received by Wiedemann. He also met Boie in Kiel. After a few days of rest Meigen and Wiedemann went to Copenhagen to visit Westermann and work on the Museum collection, postponing the main job on the Fabrician collection. On Wiedemann's recommendation, Meigen was permitted to take all of the material to his quarters for examination. He usually worked in the museum until noon, then had breakfast at Wiedemann's, and afterwards worked there until 4 o'clock, when they took lunch. On the 19th of July, the two of them went to Lund, where both Prof. Fallén and Prof. Zetterstedt were immediately notified of their arrival. Fallén was at his estate and would not be back until evening, but Zetterstedt came and brought them to his home, where Fallén also stayed. At about 5 o'clock the latter returned and a most emotional meeting with the two German entomologists took place. Fallén was a rather corpulent man of 65, but still very brisk and cheerful. He spoke German, but when he found that Meigen was well versed in French he preferred to speak in that language, which Zetterstedt also understood. Both professors spoke mostly in Latin to Wiedemann and in Swedish to each other. Meigen made as much use as possible of this opportunity to examine Fallén's and Zetterstedt's collections. Pressure of time obliged him to decline an invitation to visit Fallén and his family at their estate in Esperöd.

On the 23rd of July, they returned to Copenhagen, where Meigen stayed until the 29th with the usual routine between the Museum's and Westermann's collections. On the 30th they were back in Kiel, where everything in the collections of Fabricius and Westermann was carefully examined and compared and the unknown species drawn and described, with some remarkable results. Meigen's work gives much evidence of how little command of the Diptera Fabricius had.

After completing the important research in Kiel, both left for Hamburg. There Meigen examined the Winthem collection, but there were so many new species in it that Winthem decided to send it all to Stolberg, where it could be worked on more conveniently. In Hamburg, Meigen met the well-known entomologist Sommer from Altona and the botanist Lehmann. In the company of the latter, Meigen visited the Botanical Garden and found a colony of *Coccus cacti*, the true cochineal, on *Cactus Opuntia*. On examining it closely, he found the male of this remarkable creature, which at that time was probably unknown, and drew both sexes from living specimens.

On the 4th of September, he left Hamburg and the cordial Winthem family, who gave him something that was to bring back to his patriotic German heart until his last days memories of his pleasant time in Hamburg - a snuff box that Klopstock had used until he died. The trip to Denmark and Sweden lasted altogether 12 weeks, the brilliant result of which was a series of colored drawings of more than 400 species of insects, together with their descriptions and a large amount of interesting corrections and notes.

Inasmuch as the French school had closed down completely because of the political changes, Meigen took the position of organist for his parish, a position which, because it had no fixed duties, was unpaid. He wrote for this purpose a choral book, for which the church board paid him well. He continued in this capacity until 1831.

In 1825, Meigen made a translation of Fenelon's *Telemachus*, and in the same year he was enabled to attend a meeting of naturalists in Berlin through the efforts of the president of the organization in arranging for the ministry to pay Meigen's expenses in traveling there. He met there that official, Nees von Esenbeck, and many to whom he was known through his works on Diptera. He also saw there again his old friend Wiedemann. He took advantage of this occasion also to examine the collection of the Berlin Museum and those of Ruthe and Bouché.

Von Winthem visited him in 1826. Meigen also made a trip in that year to Crefeld and Düsseldorf. The following year, 1827, a Handbook for Butterfly Collectors appeared under his name, and he also started a much larger opus on Lepidoptera. This latter appeared in fascicles, each of which included 10 quarto plates lithographed by Meigen himself. It went as far as the Euphalaenae, where lack of funds brought it to a close. He colored the plates in a few copies. The figures, except a very few borrowed from other works, were drawn by Meigen from specimens, with unstinting help in the form of material from the collection of his old friend Seeger.

After discontinuance of the work on Lepidoptera and the completion of that on Diptera with its 6th volume, Meigen had many Diptera sent to him for determination from many sources. Outstanding among them were contributions from Waltl and Bronn. These induced him to work up a supplementary volume, which became notable for the division of the genera *Tachina*, *Musca*, and *Anthomyia* into a number of genera based upon more critical characters than those used by the French and English workers. At the same time he worked industriously on a Flora of Germany, which was not completed until a few years before his death. The last volume of this work, also containing numerous drawings made largely from nature by Meigen himself, appeared in 1842 and was the last milestone of his literary career.

When the celebrated dipterologist Macquart visited him in 1839 to see his collection, Meigen also showed him 2 thick quarto volumes of drawings containing 300 plates of colored and mostly enlarged drawings of all the species that had passed under his eyes. Macquart told Meigen that he would like to buy them, quoting a price of 1800 francs. Macquart in all haste notified the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. This immoderately cheap price was paid on the spot, as well as an additional 1200 francs for Meigen's collection of Diptera. Thus the work of 40 years of German industriousness, standing unique in all entomological literature, passed into the hands of the French, not, as Meigen often assured me, entirely without blame on the part of our fatherland. Because his studies and work had come to an end, the aged man, while he still lived, disposed of his library and the remainder of his collection also. His library and a beautiful fruit and plant collection was bought by the Verein für nützliche Wissenschaften und

Gewerbe (Society for useful sciences and industry) in Aachen. All of his insects other than Diptera were bought by me, along with a few valuable manuscripts including colored drawings of Hymenoptera.

The sale of his drawings of Diptera and the collection itself would not have nearly covered his expenses in his old age after he had become almost incapable of working, had not His Royal Highness the Crown-Prince of Prussia graciously acceded to a request from him with a pension of 200 thalers a year, a gift that does the highest honor to its noble giver in enabling its most deserving recipient to live out the last years of his life without having to worry about where his meals were to come from. The first year he received the pension was 1839.

His last years, however, were trying times for him in other ways. On 29 January 1842 he fell on the ice and broke his right arm. He was painfully recovering when an abscess on his left leg, which had long been hindering his walking, broke. And shortly thereafter he was dealt a hard blow when his 18-year old daughter died of nerve fever. Toward the middle of October he suffered a severe inflammation of the lungs that sapped his strength greatly and from which he recovered but slowly. He got through 1843 quite well, but in the spring of 1844 his old foot trouble returned, to be with him until his death. The year 1845 was to be his last. He had a bad fall in January; midway up a stairs, he fell backwards and landed at the bottom unconscious. When he was found and revived, he had no injury at all other than a little numbness.

On the 3rd of May a grand supper was held in his honor. During the festivities he was presented with a doctor's diploma from the University of Bonn. It was his last pleasure. He passed on a few months later.

Entomology was his recreation after exhausting work. Petty ambition was unknown to him, any enrichment of science was his joy, increasingly so when as an experienced master he could pass on encouragement and advice to the striving younger generation. He was shielded against any pretensions by the old adage: "Quidquid boni egeris, puta acceptum esse a Diis."

- Translated from German
by George C. Steyskal, 1974

Notice necrologique sur Meigen

By J. Macquart, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 16:323-334. 1847.

(Translators Note: Most of Macquart's article describes Meigen's publications, lists collections and entomologists contributing material to them, drops many names, and finally lists all the societies that made Meigen an honorary member.)

p. 332 . . . It was as a disciple that after corresponding with Meigen for many years I was able finally in 1839 to satisfy my intense desire to go and see him. I entered his humble domicile with the respect proper to a sanctuary of science and found myself almost immediately in the arms of an

affectionate little old man, still full of warmth and liveliness, with whom I spent delightful hours. I recognized in his conversation all the judgment, tact, and precision that distinguish his works, the admiration for the beauties of nature and the religious feeling that permeates them. He showed me his collection, his accumulation of 3000 unpublished drawings, and his library, rich alone in the works that have caused homage to be paid to him.

After showing me his treasures, he said to me with a sigh. "My age and my infirmities warn me of my approaching end. I feel a regret as father of 14 children; although I have been good enough to raise them as I desired, enough to establish many of them advantageously, I would like to secure something of well-being for them by selling my collection of Diptera and my drawings before I die. I do not think that these products of 40 years of work will be of any use to them and they would only be lost to science. Furthermore, I believe that my friends have made many attempts to sell them for me, either to the King of Prussia, my sovereign, or to German museums or entomologists. But all in vain, even though I wanted only a very moderate payment. Would you like to acquire them?"

Pleased to find myself able at the same time to be of some help to this excellent man, to contribute some solace to his last days, and to assure the preservation of these valuable appendices to his works as well as acquiring them for France, I told him I would gladly accept them on his terms, but that in order to put the matter on a basis most worthy of him and most useful to science, I would on passing through Paris propose to the administrators of the museum that they make the deal, in order to enrich the establishment open to all Europe. Soon afterwards I took leave of him as a friend I might never see again. I saw Monsieur Audouin in Paris, that other friend who soon became himself the object of so much sorrow. He grasped with all his scientific ardor the chance I offered, obtained quickly the assent of his colleagues, and the Museum lost no time in becoming possessor of Meigen's Diptera and his drawings, both most useful to consult.

Meanwhile 6 years have passed; I came through the Rheinland on the way back from a trip to Switzerland, that land so rich in the gifts of nature, the cradle of Gessner, Bonnet, Jurine, Huber. I saw Monsieur Pictet, heir of a fine name and a fine talent, in Geneva; in Bern I saw Monsieur Party, author of the Delectus Animalium; and in Zurich I saw Monsieur Brémy, who is making very interesting observations on the development of insects. I arrived in Stolbert (sic) on the 16th of July, afire to see again my master and friend, and I learned that he had died. He remanded his pious soul to God only 5 days before. His name, however, will remain long with those who investigate nature, that great manifestation of the power, the wisdom, and the goodness of the Creator.

- Translated from French
by George C. Steyskal, 1974